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# Population Update, Report Number 11: South Dakota Poverty Trends: 1970-1980

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The background of the entire page is a grid of small, stylized human icons in a dark brown color, arranged in rows and columns. A large, tilted rectangular area in the center contains the main title and other text.

# South Dakota Poverty Trends 1970-1980

Update Series C229, No 11  
Department of Rural Sociology  
Census Data Center  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings, South Dakota  
December 1983



POPULATION UPDATE

# South Dakota Poverty Trends, 1970-1980

by James Satterlee

Department of Rural Sociology  
Census Data Center  
Agricultural Experiment Station

The extent of poverty in South Dakota in 1980 was presented in a previous issue of the UPDATE series (C 229, No. 7, January 1983). This issue analyzes the changes which have occurred in the state and in the various counties during the decade 1970-1980. While these census data are not as current as we would like, they do represent the most comprehensive study of poverty available for the state.

## Definition

"Poverty" is defined in any number of ways. For purposes of census counts and eligibility for various support programs, poverty is based on family income, size of family, and age of members. While those guidelines have changed, the data used in this publication are based on the levels set forth by the Social Service Administration in 1980 and which serve as the basis for

national, state, and local programs (Table 1).

## Persons in Poverty

The 23,335 South Dakota families considered to be in poverty in 1980 represent 112,739 persons, or about one in every six persons (16%) in the state.

In 1970 the total was 119,543, or about 19% of the state population. Changes in the decade varied from a high of a 93.1% increase in Lyman County to a reduction of 42.4% in Yankton County. The state as a whole experienced a 2.2% decrease in the number of persons in poverty over the decade. Recent figures from the SD Department of Labor would project the number of persons in poverty to be 120,000 by 1984, or approximately 17% of the total population.

<sup>1</sup>SD Department of Labor, South Dakota Annual Planning Report No. 13, June 1983, pp. 49-50.

Table I. Thresholds at the poverty level in 1970\* by size of family and number of related children under 18 years old.

Size of Family Unit	Weighted Average Thresholds	Related Children Under 18 Years								
		None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 or More
1 person	\$ 3,686									
Under 65 years	3,774	\$3,774								
65 years and over	3,479	3,479								
2 persons	4,723									
Householder under 65 years	4,876	4,858	\$5,000							
Householder 65 years and over	4,389	4,385	4,981							
3 persons	5,787	5,674	5,839	\$5,844						
4 persons	7,412	7,482	7,605	7,356	\$7,382					
5 persons	8,776	9,023	9,154	8,874	\$8,657	\$8,525				
6 persons	9,915	10,378	10,419	10,205	9,999	9,693	\$9,512			
7 persons	11,237	11,941	12,016	11,759	11,580	11,246	10,857	\$10,429		
8 persons	12,484	13,356	13,473	13,231	13,018	12,717	12,334	11,936	\$11,835	
9 persons or more	14,812	16,066	16,144	15,929	15,749	15,453	15,046	14,677	14,586	\$14,024

\*Last year of complete yearly income before the 1980 Census, April 1, 1980.

## Families in Poverty

While the nation experienced an increase from 5.2 million families (10.1%) in poverty in 1970 to 6.2 million families (10.3%) in 1980, the state of South Dakota saw a reduction from 23,887 families (14.8%) in 1970 to 23,335 families (13.2%) during the same decade. This decline of 552 poverty families (-2.1%) for the state was not uniformly experienced by all counties. Changes ranged from a +99% to a -46% (Table 3 and Maps 1 & 2).

The number of families in poverty dropped in 35 counties during the decade. Poverty families increased in the remaining 31 counties at rates ranging from 1% in Roberts and Kingsbury counties to 99% in Lyman County (Table 4).

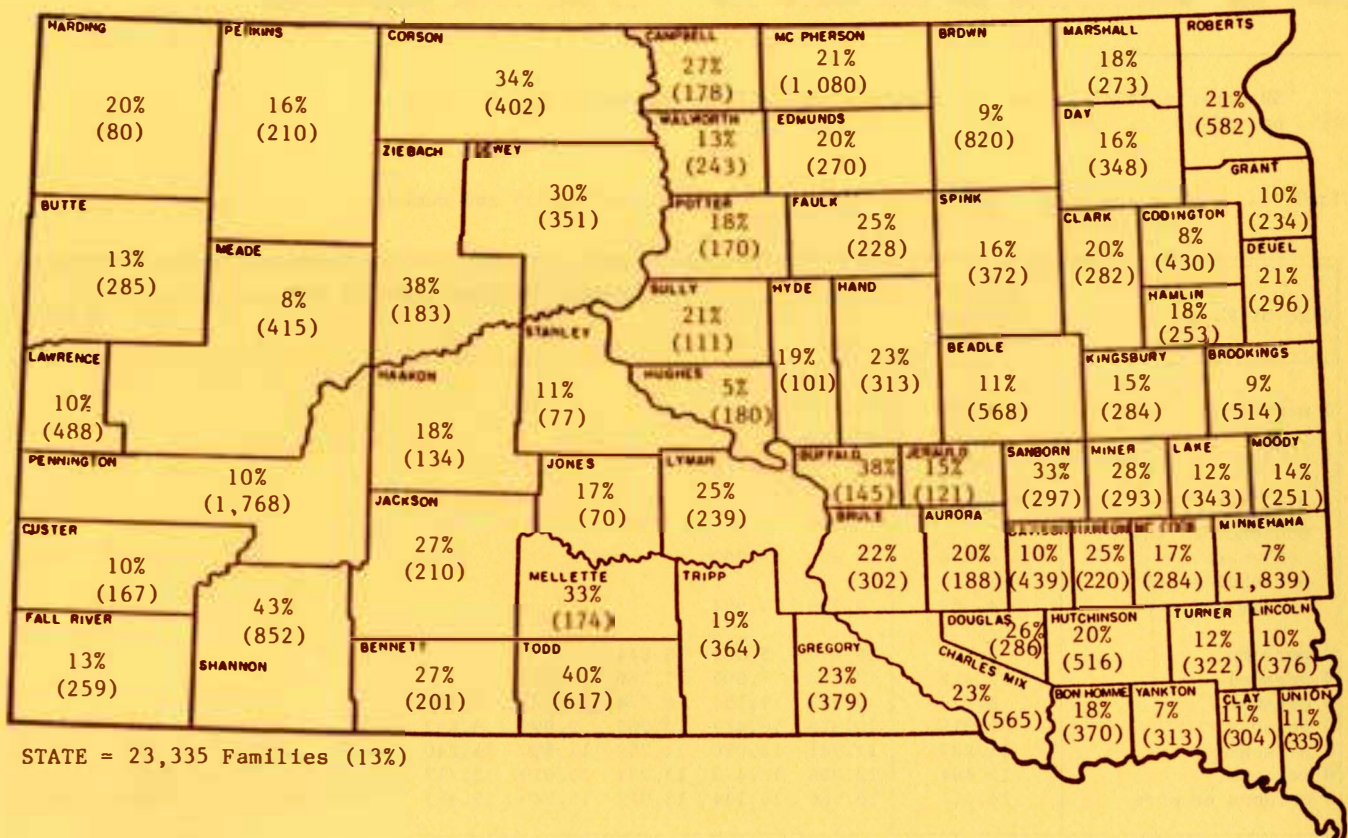
<sup>2</sup>SD Department of Labor, South Dakota Annual Planning Report No. 13, June 1983, pp. 49-50.

## Elderly Families in Poverty

One of the age groups hit hardest by poverty is the elderly category (65 years of age and over). Poverty among the elderly declined nationwide, from 1.2 million families (24.5%) to 837,000 (15.7%) during the 1970-80 decade. During the same decade, poverty in this age group decreased in South Dakota as well, with a reduction from 5,504 (19% of all elderly families) in 1970 to 3,660 (11% of all elderly families) in 1980. These 3,660 elderly poverty families in 1980 represent a total of 10,426 elderly persons (see Table 5 and Map 3). Recent projections by the SD Department of Labor would estimate the poverty totals to include 18,800 elderly persons<sup>2</sup> by 1984, or 19% of all elderly persons.

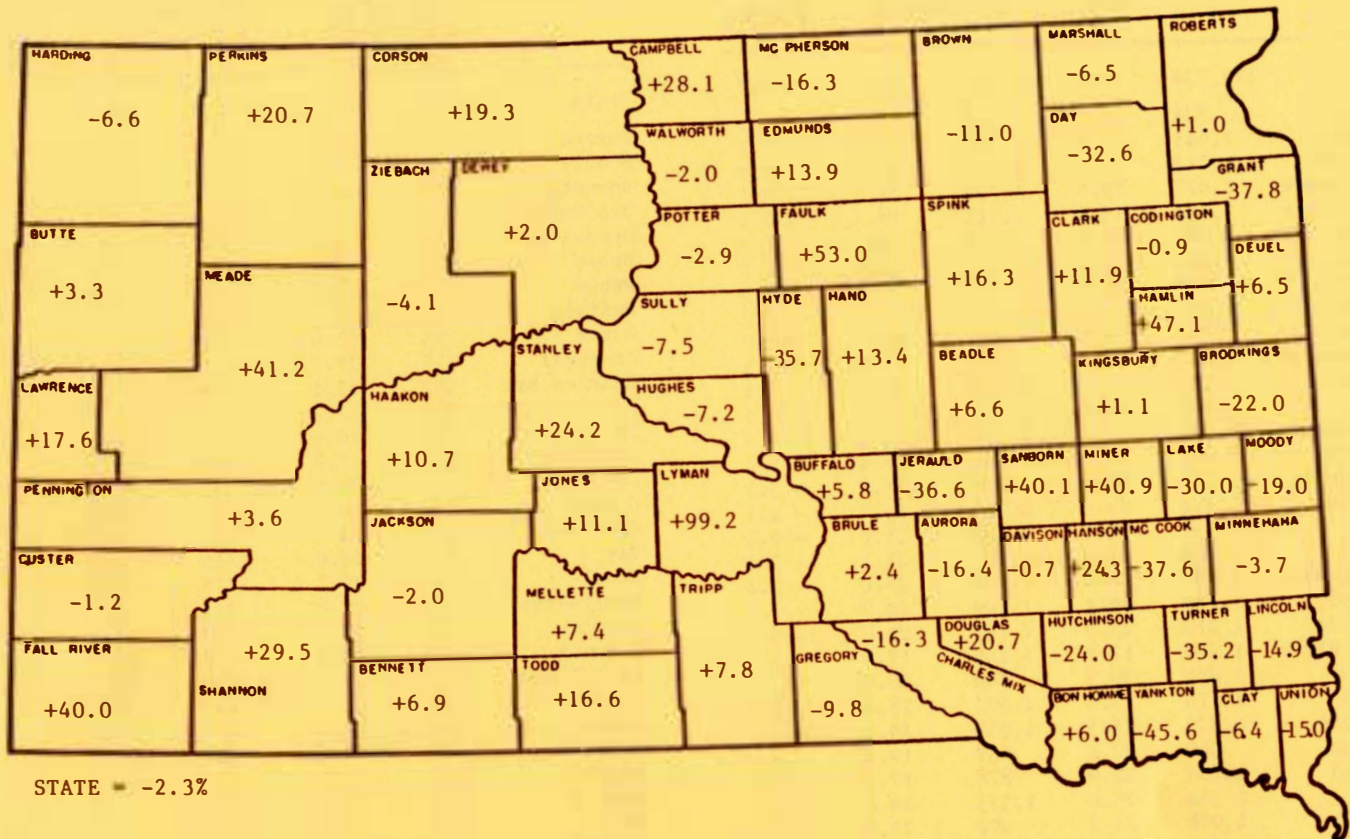
(continued on page 8)

MAP 1. Number and percent of families in poverty, South Dakota 1980.





MAP 2. Percent change in poverty by county (Families in Poverty), 1970-1980.



MAP 3. Elderly poverty stricken families in South Dakota, 1980.

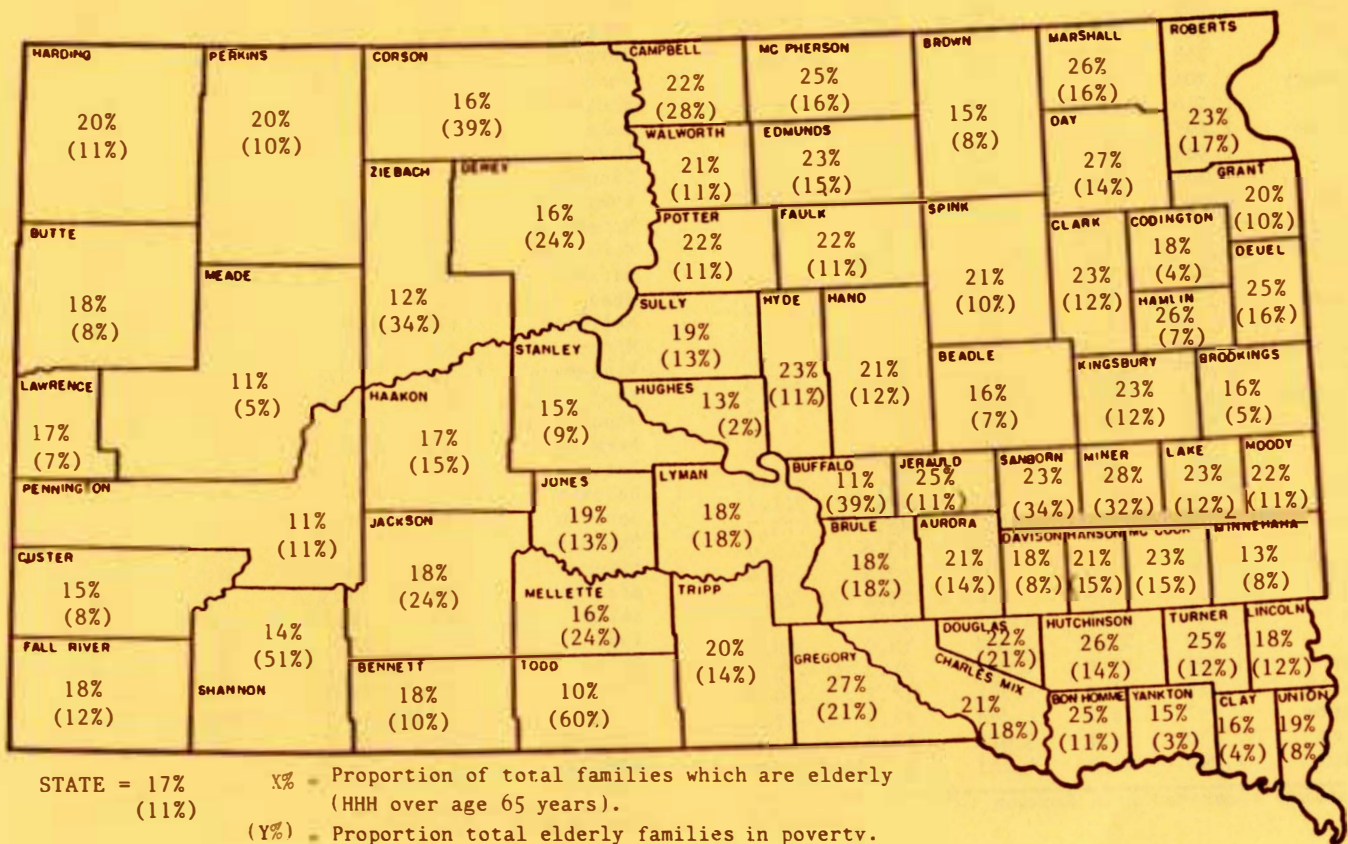


TABLE 2. Individual poverty data 1980.

	Persons In Poverty 1980		Persons In Poverty 1970		Percent Change 1970-80
	#	%	#	%	
State	112,739	16.9	119,543	18.7	- 2.7
Aurora	824	22.7	1,130	28.4	-27.1
Beadle	2,645	13.8	2,897	14.2	- 8.7
Bennett	1,014	33.3	1,150	37.4	-11.8
Bon Homme	1,677	20.8	1,779	22.2	- 5.7
Brookings	3,731	15.3	3,511	18.3	+ 6.3
Brown	3,997	10.8	5,082	14.4	-21.3
Brule	1,274	24.3	1,288	22.2	- 1.1
Buffalo	750	41.8	717	46.9	+ 4.6
Butte	1,313	15.7	1,296	16.4	+ 1.3
Campbell	685	30.5	578	20.2	+18.5
Charles Mix	2,722	28.1	3,144	31.8	-13.4
Clark	1,247	25.5	1,154	21.2	+ 8.1
Clay	2,142	15.6	1,943	18.1	+10.2
Codington	2,257	10.8	2,268	12.0	- .5
Corson	2,093	40.3	1,918	38.4	+ 9.1
Custer	769	12.8	746	16.6	+ 3.1
Davison	2,414	13.5	2,517	15.1	- 4.1
Day	1,558	19.2	2,448	28.8	-36.4
Deuel	1,225	23.2	1,187	21.1	+ 3.2
Dewey-Arms.	1,888	35.2	1,955	38.0	- 3.4
Douglas	1,189	28.4	1,109	24.8	+ 7.2
Edmunds	1,219	23.6	1,157	21.2	+ 5.4
Fall River	1,502	17.8	1,220	17.8	+23.1
Faulk	1,022	30.7	799	20.8	+27.9
Grant	1,173	13.0	1,672	18.8	-29.8
Gregory	1,533	25.5	1,959	29.3	-21.7
Haakon	569	20.4	537	19.2	+ 6.0
Hamlin	1,204	22.9	878	17.3	+37.1
Hand	1,384	28.0	1,535	26.4	- 9.8
Hanson	1,068	31.3	900	23.8	+18.7
Harding	393	23.1	448	25.0	-12.3
Hughes	990	7.0	1,096	9.6	- 9.7
Hutchinson	2,122	22.7	2,812	27.7	-24.5
Hyde	467	22.6	784	31.8	-40.4
Jackson*	1,201	34.9	992	20.7	+21.1
Jerauld	583	19.9	808	25.0	-27.8
Jones	268	18.3	321	17.9	-16.5
Kingsbury	1,306	19.6	1,270	16.7	+ 2.8
Lake	1,516	14.1	2,182	20.1	-30.5
Lawrence	2,498	13.6	2,532	15.1	- 1.3
Lincoln	1,503	10.8	1,801	15.6	-16.5
Lyman	1,097	28.4	568	14.1	+93.1
McCook	1,193	18.5	2,119	29.8	-43.7
McPherson	1,080	26.8	1,224	24.7	-11.8
Marshall	1,218	22.5	1,309	22.4	- 7.0
Meade	2,019	9.7	1,792	12.2	+12.7
Mellette	856	38.1	791	33.5	+ 8.2
Miner	1,189	31.8	989	22.6	+20.2
Minnehaha	9,187	8.4	9,739	10.6	- 5.7
Moody	1,050	15.7	1,415	20.1	-25.8
Pennington	8,435	12.0	8,015	13.8	+ 5.2
Perkins	901	19.2	909	19.1	- .9
Potter	758	20.6	902	20.7	-16.0
Roberts	2,808	25.7	3,130	27.3	-10.3
Sanborn	1,110	34.5	993	26.9	+11.8
Shannon	4,998	44.1	3,684	45.7	+35.7
Spink	1,716	18.7	1,652	17.6	+ 3.9
Stanley	330	13.0	303	12.5	+ 8.9
Sully	433	21.8	569	24.2	-23.9
Todd	3,142	42.9	2,982	45.8	+ 5.4
Tripp	1,686	23.2	1,452	18.0	+16.1
Turner	1,393	15.1	2,058	21.2	-32.3
Union	1,426	13.0	1,781	18.7	-19.9
Walworth	997	14.2	1,288	16.8	-22.6
Yankton	1,776	9.4	3,071	18.5	-42.2
Ziebach	1,006	43.6	1,288	47.7	-21.9

\*Washabaugh (Combined with Jackson 1979)

TABLE 3. Family poverty data, 1980.

	Families in Poverty 1980		Families in Poverty 1970		Percent Change 1970-80
	#	%	#	%	
State	23,335	13.2	23,857	14.8	- 2.3
Aurora	188	20.0	225	22.3	-16.4
Beadle	568	10.8	533	10.2	+ 6.6
Bennett	201	27.3	188	26.9	+ 6.9
Bon Homme	370	17.6	349	16.5	+ 6.0
Brookings	514	9.5	659	13.5	-22.0
Brown	820	8.6	921	10.6	-11.0
Brule	302	21.8	295	20.6	+ 2.4
Buffalo	145	38.1	137	38.8	+ 5.8
Butte	285	12.6	276	13.6	+ 3.3
Campbell	178	27.5	139	18.7	+28.1
Charles Mix	565	23.4	675	27.8	-16.3
Clark	282	20.2	252	16.3	+11.9
Clay	304	10.9	329	12.1	- 6.4
Codington	430	7.9	434	9.1	- .9
Corson	402	34.2	337	32.4	+19.3
Custer	167	10.5	169	13.8	- 1.2
Davison	439	9.5	442	10.5	- .7
Day	348	15.9	516	22.5	-32.6
Deuel	296	20.7	278	18.4	+ 6.5
Dewey-Arms.	351	29.6	344	31.8	+ 2.0
Douglas	286	25.7	237	20.9	+20.7
Edmunds	270	19.6	237	16.7	+13.9
Fall River	259	12.6	185	10.8	+40.0
Faulk	228	25.2	149	15.6	+53.0
Grant	234	9.9	376	16.7	-37.8
Gregory	379	23.3	420	22.5	- 9.8
Haakon	134	18.5	121	17.3	+10.7
Hamlin	253	17.8	172	12.4	+47.1
Hand	313	22.8	276	19.3	+13.4
Hanson	220	24.7	177	18.7	+24.3
Harding	85	19.5	91	20.5	- 6.6
Hughes	180	4.9	194	6.8	- 7.2
Hutchinson	516	20.1	679	24.9	-24.0
Hyde	101	18.7	157	25.4	-35.7
Jackson*	210	27.1	214	15.3	- 2.0
Jerauld	121	15.2	191	22.4	-36.6
Jones	70	17.2	63	14.2	+11.1
Kingsbury	284	15.3	281	13.5	+ 1.1
Lake	343	12.1	490	17.1	-30.0
Lawrence	488	10.4	415	9.7	+17.6
Lincoln	376	9.9	442	14.4	-14.9
Lyman	239	24.8	120	12.0	+99.2
McCook	284	16.6	455	24.6	-37.6
McPherson	246	20.9	294	22.0	-16.3
Marshall	273	18.3	292	19.7	- 6.5
Meade	415	8.1	294	8.4	+41.2
Mellette	174	32.6	162	26.9	+ 7.4
Miner	293	28.0	208	17.9	+40.9
Minnehaha	1,839	6.6	1,909	8.2	- 3.7
Moody	251	14.0	310	16.8	-19.0
Pennington	1,768	9.6	1,706	11.3	+ 3.6
Perkins	210	16.0	174	14.4	+20.7
Potter	170	17.7	175	16.2	- 2.9
Roberts	582	21.4	576	19.9	+ 1.0
Sanborn	297	32.8	212	21.4	+40.1
Shannon	852	42.9	658	44.2	+29.5
Spink	372	16.0	320	12.9	+16.3
Stanley	77	11.5	62	10.3	+24.2
Sully	111	20.6	120	21.4	- 7.5
Todd	617	40.0	529	40.8	+16.6
Tripp	364	18.6	309	15.4	+17.8
Turner	322	12.2	497	19.0	-35.2
Union	335	11.2	394	15.6	-15.0
Walworth	243	12.8	248	12.9	- 2.0
Yankton	313	6.6	575	14.2	-45.6
Ziebach	183	37.7	223	41.8	- 4.1

\*Washabaugh (Combined with Jackson 1979)



TABLE 4. Families in poverty, 1970-80.

Rank Order of Counties By Percent Change 1970 - 1980	Counties	Percent Increase of Decrease in Poverty 1970 - 1980	
State Total		-2.3%	
1	Lyman	+99%	
2	Faulk	53	
3	Hamlin	47	
4	Miner	41	
5	Meade	41	
6	Sanborn	40	
7	Fall River	40	
8	Shannon	29	
9	Campbell	28	
10	Hanson	24	
11	Stanley	24	
12	Douglas	21	INCREASED
13	Perkins	21	
14	Corson	19	POVERTY
15	Tripp	18	
16	Lawrence	18	
17	Todd	17	
18	Spink	16	
19	Edmunds	14	
20	Hand	13	
21	Clark	12	
22	Haakon	11	
23	Jones	11	
24	Millette	7	
25	Bennett	7	
26	Beadle	7	
27	Deuel	7	
28	Bon Homme	6	
29	Buffalo	6	
30	Pennington	4	
31	Butte	3	
32	Brule	2	
33	Dewey-Armstrong	2	
34	Kingsbury	1	
35	Roberts	+1	
36	Davidson	-1	
37	Codington	1	
38	Custer	1	
39	Walworth	2	
40	Jackson-Washabaugh	2	
41	Potter	3	
42	Minnehaha	4	
43	Ziebach	4	
44	Clay	6	
45	Marshall	7	
46	Sully	7	
47	Hughes	7	
48	Harding	7	DECREASED
49	Gregory	10	
50	Brown	11	POVERTY
51	Union	15	
52	Lincoln	15	
53	McPherson	16	
54	Aurora	16	
55	Charles Mix	16	
56	Moody	19	
57	Brookings	22	
58	Hutchinson	24	
59	Lake	30	
60	Day	33	
61	Turner	35	
62	Hyde	36	
63	Jerauld	37	
64	Grant	38	
65	McCook	38	
66	Yankton	46	

TABLE 5. Elderly poverty families by county \*\*, 1980.

	Total Elderly Families	% of Total Families	Total Elderly Poverty Families	% of Total Elderly Families
State	30,574	17%	3,660	11%
Aurora	210	21	29	14
Beadle	875	16	63	7
Bennett	137	18	26	10
Bon Homme	530	25	93	11
Brookings	863	16	41	5
Brown	1,463	15	116	8
Brule	251	18	45	18
Buffalo	41	11	16	39
Butte	405	18	32	8
Campbell	141	22	39	28
Charles Mix	513	21	95	18
Clark	323	23	40	12
Clay	437	16	18	4
Codington	963	18	93	10
Corson	193	16	76	39
Custer	238	15	19	8
Davison	846	18	68	8
Day	590	27	34	14
Deuel	348	25	57	16
Dewey-Arms.	199	16	47	24
Douglas	243	22	51	21
Edmunds	318	23	46	15
Fall River	366	18	43	12
Faulk	203	22	24	11
Grant	478	20	49	10
Gregory	444	27	93	21
Haakon	124	17	19	15
Hamlin	370	26	24	7
Hand	288	21	34	12
Hanson	193	21	29	15
Harding	90	20	10	11
Hughes	463	13	7	2
Hutchinson	680	26	97	14
Hyde	122	23	13	11
Jackson *	139	18	33	24
Jerauld	193	25	21	11
Jones	79	19	10	13
Kingsbury	440	23	53	12
Lake	673	23	76	12
Lawrence	810	17	54	7
Lincoln	691	18	92	13
Lyman	179	18	32	18
McCook	387	23	56	15
McPherson	301	25	48	16
Marshall	382	26	62	16
Meade	575	11	30	5
Mellette	87	16	21	24
Miner	293	28	95	32
Minnehaha	3,711	13	280	8
Moody	400	22	44	11
Pennington	2,037	11	214	11
Perkins	254	20	25	10
Potter	215	22	24	11
Roberts	644	23	112	17
Sanborn	212	23	73	34
Shannon	280	14	142	51
Spink	481	21	49	10
Stanley	105	15	9	9
Sully	105	19	14	13
Todd	152	10	91	60
Tripp	383	20	52	14
Turner	674	25	83	12
Union	565	19	43	8
Walworth	407	21	44	11
Yankton	722	15	22	3
Ziebach	59	12	20	34

\* Washabaugh (Combined with Jackson in 1979)

\*\* definition: Families with a household head age 65 years and over

TABLE 6. Native Americans in poverty, 1980.

	Total American Indians	Total American Indians in Poverty	Percent of American Indians in Poverty
State	45,572	20,819**	45.7
Aurora	24	N/A	N/A
Beadle	153	109	71.2
Bennett	1,174	643	54.8
Bon Homme	238	91	38.2
Brookings	95	15	15.8
Brown	887	167	18.8
Brule	277	74	26.7
Buffalo	1,270	574	45.2
Butte	132	54	40.9
Campbell	2	N/A	N/A
Charles Mix	1,709	841	49.2
Clark	6	N/A	N/A
Clay	342	121	35.4
Codington	92	16	17.4
Corson	2,459	N/A	N/A
Custer	170	56	32.9
Davison	358	231	64.5
Day	427	245	57.4
Deuel	-0-	-0-	-0-
Dewey-Arms.	3,107	1,406	45.3
Douglas	34	23	67.6
Edmunds	9	N/A	N/A
Fall River	400	199	49.8
Faulk	14	N/A	N/A
Grant	23	N/A	N/A
Gregory	211	N/A	N/A
Haakon	23	N/A	N/A
Hamlin	8	N/A	N/A
Hand	2	N/A	N/A
Hanson	12	N/A	N/A
Harding	10	N/A	N/A
Hughes	885	171	19.3
Hutchinson	47	15	31.9
Hyde	84	N/A	N/A
Jackson*	1,491	N/A	N/A
Jerauld	1	N/A	N/A
Jones	6	N/A	N/A
Kingsbury	5	N/A	N/A
Lake	81	7	8.6
Lawrence	307	95	30.9
Lincoln	33	8	24.2
Lyman	907	389	42.9
McCook	2	N/A	N/A
McPherson	-0-	-0-	-0-
Marshall	274	157	57.3
Meade	246	7	2.8
Mellette	872	579	66.4
Miner	7	N/A	N/A
Minnehaha	1,123	490	43.6
Moody	350	57	16.3
Pennington	3,655	1,565	42.8
Perkins	62	10	16.1
Potter	27	N/A	N/A
Roberts	2,110	1,047	49.6
Sanborn	-0-	-0-	-0-
Shannon	10,575	4,835	45.7
Spink	83	48	57.8
Stanley	116	23	19.8
Sully	9	N/A	N/A
Todd	5,688	2,800	49.2
Tripp	580	303	52.2
Turner	57	19	33.4
Union	57	15	26.3
Walworth	400	96	24.0
Yankton	422	140	33.2
Ziebach	1,342	700d	52.2

\* Washabaugh (Combined with Jackson 1979)

\*\* This figure for total persons in poverty is correct even though the column will not total. The suppression of statistics for units with small numbers protects individual privacy.

The proportion of elderly families considered to be in poverty in 1980 varied from a high of 60% of all elderly in Todd County to a low of 2% of all elderly in Hughes County. The highest proportion tended to be found in those counties predominately West River and in reservation areas.

### Minorities in Poverty

The term "minority" represents the Native Americans. The U.S. Census counted a total of 45,572 Native Americans in South Dakota in 1980, an increase of 13,207 persons (+40.1%) over the decade of 1970-80. The reservation counties of Shannon and Todd ranked first and second in numbers with Pennington County as third (see Table 6). Data was suppressed for some counties with very small numbers of Native Americans to maintain rights of privacy.

Nearly one half (45.7%) of all Native Americans in the state in 1980 were considered to be in a state of poverty. The extent of poverty among Native Americans in those counties with data available ranged from a high of 71% for Beadle County to a low of 2.8% for Meade County (Table 6).

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